



VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I know if I can use the VWP to enter the United States without a visa?

Nationals of the 38 VWP participants (including Chile) may use the VWP program if:

- They have been approved for travel under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA);
- The purpose of their stay in the United States is for tourism or business (visitor "B" visa purposes) and the length of their stay is 90 days or less;
- They present a valid e-passport (i.e., passports with an integrated chip containing the information from the data page), issued in Chile since September 2013;
- They have complied with the conditions of previous admissions under the VWP, and have not been found ineligible for a U.S. visa; and
- If arriving by air or sea, they are traveling on signatory VWP carriers and have round-trip transportation tickets to any foreign destination;
 - At the time of arrival, applicants must have a round trip ticket that will transport them out of the United States to any other foreign port or place, as long as the trip does not end in Mexico, Canada or most Caribbean islands.
- If arriving by land, they can demonstrate financial solvency and the intent to return to their domicile abroad.

Q. When do I need to apply for a visa instead of using the VWP?

Travelers who do not meet the conditions noted above must apply for a visa. In particular, a visa must be requested if the traveler:

- Has been denied approval to travel under ESTA;
- Wants to remain in the United States for longer than 90 days, or envisions that he or she may wish to change status (e.g., from tourist to student) once in the United States, as travelers entering under the VWP are generally barred from adjusting to non-VWP status once in the United States;
- Wants to work or study in the United States, wants to come to the United States for other purposes not allowed on a visitor visa, or intends to immigrate to the United States;
- Does not have a VWP-compliant passport as described above;
- Intends to travel to the United States by an air or sea carrier not on the list of signatory carriers (this includes private planes);
- Has been refused a visa or admission to the United States before, or did not comply with the conditions of previous VWP admissions;
- Has a criminal record or other condition making him or her inadmissible to the United States;
- Is the bearer of an official and/or diplomatic passport and is traveling to the United States for diplomatic or official purposes, including a temporary assignment of less than 90 days. Such travelers must obtain an (A) or (G) visa before departing for the United States;
- Is a representative of the foreign press, radio, film, journalist, or other media engaging in that vocation while in the United States. These professionals may not enter the United States under the VWP and must obtain a nonimmigrant media (I) visa.

Q. What kind of travel is permitted under visitor (B) visas and therefore allowable under the VWP?

The following types of activities/purposes of travel are allowed under visitor (B) category visas:

- Business travel, including consulting with business associates or to negotiate a contract;
- Travel to attend a scientific, educational, professional, or business convention or conference;
- Travel to attend a short-term training program (you may not be paid by any source in the United States with the exception of expenses incidental to your stay);
- Travel to engage in tourism, including vacations, visits with friends and family or to participate in social events hosted by fraternal, social or service organizations;
- Travel for medical treatment;
- Participation by amateurs in musical, sports, or similar events or contests, if not being paid for participating. Paid athletes and performers must apply for a (P) visa prior to travel;
- Enrollment in a short recreational course of study, not for credit toward a degree (for example, a two-day cooking class while on vacation).

The following types of activities are not permitted on the VWP and require visas for travel to the United States:

- Study, for credit;
- Employment;
- Permanent residence in the United States;
- Performing, teaching, or competing as a professional athlete or musician in the United States for pay;
- Work as foreign press, radio, film, journalist, or other information media representative;
- Work as a diplomat or official, including temporary assignments of less than 90 days.

Q. What are the passport requirements for VWP travelers? May I travel to the U.S. using my cedula/RUT card?

- Nationals of Chile cannot travel to the United States under the VWP using their RUT card or cedula.
- Nationals of Chile must present valid and ICAO-compliant e-passports, sometimes referred to as biometric passports (i.e., passports with an integrated chip containing the information from the data page). These passports have been the only passport issued by Chile since September 2, 2013.

Q. I currently have a temporary passport (documento de viaje). May I still travel on the VWP?

- Chilean temporary passports do not meet the e-passport requirements and, therefore, cannot be used to travel to the United States on the VWP. Holders of passports that do not meet the requirements should either acquire an e-passport or apply for a visa.

<http://chile.usembassy.gov>
<http://cbp.gov/esta>



Embajada
de los Estados Unidos
de América
Santiago, Chile



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Q. What about family passports for VWP travelers?

- Families seeking to enter the United States under the VWP need to obtain individual e-passports that meet program requirements for each traveler, including infants.

Q. May I apply for a U.S. visa instead of using the VWP for travel to the U.S.?

- Travelers who are eligible for the VWP may apply for a visitor (B) visa for travel to the United States if they prefer to do so.
- If you do not meet all of the criteria for travel under the VWP, you must apply for a U.S. visa at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- If you will travel to the United States on a private aircraft or other non-VWP approved air or sea carrier, you cannot travel under the VWP and will need to apply for a U.S. visa.

Q. If I was denied a U.S. visa in the past, can I travel under the VWP?

- A recent visa refusal for any reason could result in a denial of ESTA authorization, additional review at the port of entry, or denial of admission to the United States. If you are uncertain if you qualify for VWP travel, you may choose to apply for a visa.

Q. If I travel from the United States to Canada, Mexico or nearby islands and then return to the U.S., do I get another 90 days in the U.S.?

- Travelers who have been admitted to the United States under the VWP and who make a short trip to Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island generally can be readmitted to the United States under the VWP for the remainder of the 90 days granted upon your initial arrival in the United States. Therefore, the length of time of your total stay, including the short trip, must be 90 days or less. Please see the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website.

Q. What happens to VWP travelers at the port of entry?

- Detailed information about admissions and entry to the United States under the VWP can be obtained from DHS/CBP. A person traveling under the VWP goes through the same inspection at the port of entry as those bearing U.S. visas, generally speaking.
- Travelers should be aware that by requesting admission under the VWP, they are generally waiving their right to review or appeal a CBP officer's decision as to their application for admission at the port of entry. If travelers admitted into the United States are later found to have violated the conditions of admission under the VWP, they have also waived the right to contest a removal order with the exception of the opportunity to apply for asylum. Travelers waive these rights when completing the ESTA application online in advance of travel and reaffirm this waiver upon admission and submission of biometrics during DHS's US-VISIT processing at U.S. ports of entry.

Q. Are there any fees to travel to the United States under the VWP?

- Yes, there is \$14.00 USD fee. The fee is comprised of two parts, a "processing charge" and an "authorization charge."
- All applicants requesting an ESTA authorization are charged for the processing of each application submitted. The processing charge is \$4.00 USD.

- If your ESTA application is approved and you receive authorization to travel to the United States under the VWP, an additional \$10.00 USD authorization charge will be charged to your credit card.

- If your ESTA application is denied, you will only be charged the \$4.00 USD processing fee.

- There is a \$6.00 USD land border fee for VWP travelers arriving at land ports of entry.

Q. How long is an ESTA authorization valid? Do I need to reapply every time I travel to the United States?

- Travel authorizations are generally valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. Chilean nationals may travel to the U.S. repeatedly within the validity period, without having to apply for another ESTA authorization.

